(b) Intallation of new exchanges is based on registered minimum demand of 10. In larger cities, opening of new exchanges is based on waiting list and geographical area required to be served. Accordingly new exchanges are opened based on these considerations. However, planning is done on the basis of expansion of network capacity which is installed either as new exchanges or expansion of existing exchanges. During the year 1992-93, it is proposed to add 11.44 lakh lines as per Annual Plan 1992-93. The plan for the year 1993-94 has not been finalised.

Allotment of telephones under M. P. Quota by forgoing signatures

1719. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3407 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March, 1992 and state :

(a) what is the dates on which the complaints were received alongwith the names of the members regarding forged signatures for allotment of telephone connection under M.Ps. quota;

(b) whether sanction orders have since been cancelled ;

(c) if so, on what dates ;

(d) whether confirmation from these Members were not obtained before the issue of sanction orders ; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The required information is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) to (e) Cases have been registered with the Police for investigation. Cases in which telephones had been sanctioned prior to receipt of complaint of forgery, orders for cancellation were issued on the dates given below :

1. Kumari Sushila Tiriya, M.P. 29-10-91
2. Shri Pramod Mahajan, M. P. 23-1-92
3. Shri Bindeshwari Dubey; M.P. 20-2-92
4. Shri Bekal Utsahi, M. P. 24-3-92

Some cases were sanctioned during the tenure of previous Government, there was no practice of seeking confirmation at that time. The practice was started in July/ August 91 and later discontinued in view of complaints of delay from some Members of Parliament.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the M.P.	Date on which the complaints were made
	S/Shri	
1	Manjay Lal	25-7-91
2	Bindeshwari Dube	3-2-92
3	Ajit Jogi	22-2-92
4	N. Dennis	25-2,92
5	Ramashray Prasad Singh	17-9-91
6	Bekal Utsahi	9-3-92
7	Ram Prakash Chaudhury	26-9-91
8	Dr. (Kum.) Alia	24-7-91
9	Ms. Sushila Tiriya	25-10-91
10	Pramod Mahajan	26-12-91
11	P. R. Kumaramangalam, Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs.	16-4-92

Abolition of R.M.S. Sorting Offices under Orissa Postal Circle

1720. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the R.M.S. sorting offices, catering to the needs of rural people for expenditious delivery of dak, have been abolished or withdrawn under the Orissa Postal Circle during the year 1992 ;

(b) whether the department have received complaints from public and their representatives against this decision of closing down of R.M.S. sorting offices ; and

(c) If so, what is the decision of Government to meet the public demand of continuance of these R.M.S. sorting offices in Orissa at their existing places which were closed down in the year 1992 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No Sorting offices catering to the needs of rural people for expeditious delivery of dak, have been abolished or withdrawn under Orissa Postal Circle during the year 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Post Office facilities to Gram Panchayats in Orissa

1721. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Gram Panchayats in Orissa which do not have post offices ; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) There are a total of 80 Gram Panchayats which do not have post offices in the State of Orissa as per latest information available.

(b) The expansion of postal network is a continuing process. New post offices are opened in the rural areas of the country keeping in view the prescribed population, income and distance norms as well as availability of funds with the aim of progressively covering all the areas where opening of a new post office is justified as per the norms.

Providing P.C.O. Telephones to the Villages

1722. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ensured that all villages with more than 1000 population would be provided with a P.C.O. telephone ; and

(b) what is the statewise provision for P.C.O.'s in villages by the department ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat Villages by 31st March, 1995 and other Villages by 2000 A.D. progressively irrespective of population, subject to availability of resources.

(b) The details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of Panchayat Telephones as on 1-4-1992

Serial Number	State	No. of Panchayat Villages with Telephone facility as on 1-4-1992.
1	Andhra Pradesh	10,134
2	Assam	665
3	Bihar	4,313
4	(i) Gujarat	3,937
	(ii) Dadra Nagar, Daman & Diu	16
5	Haryana	2580
6	Himachal Pradesh	924
7	Jammu & Kashmir	472
8	Karnataka	4,441
9	Kerala	982
	L. Deep Island	
10	Madhya Pradesh	8292
11	(i) Maharashtra	6569
	(ii) Goa	162
12	*North—East*	
	(i) Arunachal Pradesh	69
	(ii) Manipur	82
	(iii) Meghalaya	124
	(iv) Mizoram	22
	(v) Nagaland	12
	(vi) Tripura	167
13	Orissa	2531
14	Punjab	1930
15	Rajasthan	3735
16	Tamil Nadu	7842
	Pondicherry	
17	Uttar Pradesh	6428
18	(i) West Bengal	1507
	(ii) A. & N. Islands	17
	(iii) Sikkim	37
19.	Delhi U. T.	182
		68,172